

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am an original and first and joint inventor of the subject matter that is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled **CLOSURE ELEMENT**, application of which was filed in the United States Patent and Trademark Office on November 15, 1999, under Serial No. 09/441,182.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

PRIOR FOREIGN APPLICATION(S)

<u>19852557.5</u>	<u>Germany</u>	<u>13 November 1998</u>	Yes <u>x</u>	No <u> </u>
(Number)	(Country)	(Day/month/year filed)	Priority Claimed	Under 35 USC 119

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information that is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, 51.56(a).

And I hereby appoint Richard L. Mayer (Registration No. 22,490) and Thomas J. Meloro (Registration No. 33,538) my attorney with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

Please address all communications regarding this application to:

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26646

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Direct all telephone calls to Richard L. Mayer at (212) 425-7200.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Inventor: **Uwe HAHMANN**

Inventor's Signature: _____



Date: _____

26.01.00

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Inventor: Christian SAUERWALD

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Date: _____

26.1.2000

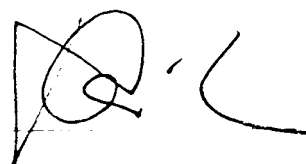
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Inventor's Signature:

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